



Mid-Region Council of Governments of New Mexico

Final Public Review for long-range Transportation Plan Begins

Month-long Review period begins March 19th — Public's last chance to weigh in

(Albuquerque, NM March 14, 2007) — After two years of development, the Mid-Region Council of Governments is releasing the draft 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP is the long-range transportation plan that addresses future mobility needs of the metropolitan area, including issues of congestion, maintaining air quality, and improving quality of life. A 30-day period has been set up from March 19th through April 20th, for members of the public to make final comments on the plan before it goes to the Metropolitan Transportation Board for approval.

“This draft plan represents a lot of input from the public as well as our member governments”, says Mayor Larry Abraham, Chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Board. “The decisions that result from the development of the 2030 MTP will have far reaching effects for the entire region.”

The MRCOG, which is the federally-designated planning organization for the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area, forecasts that population and employment in the metro area will increase by 40% in the next 25 years. The MRCOG and the various jurisdictions within the metropolitan area have come together to ensure development of a transportation network that serves everyone in the region within the constraints of anticipated funding. This Plan is the result of their efforts.

“This transportation plan talks more about pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation issues than any previous plan we’ve done”, says Lawrence Rael, Executive Director of the Mid-Region Council of Governments. “MRCOG staff have developed a state-of-the-art tool to identify areas where pedestrian projects could make a real impact. The Draft Plan also includes for the first time specific pedestrian projects, including a competitive grant program to assist local planners in the efforts to improve pedestrian access to jobs, schools, or shops”.

Although the MTP looks as far forward as the year 2030, it is updated every four years. Planning for the next MTP will begin within a year.

There are three public meetings scheduled within the 30-day final review period for people wanting to get more detailed information about the plan:

Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Meetings

Thursday April 5th, 5:30pm – 7:30pm at the Mid-Region Council of Governments offices at 809 Copper Ave. NW
(Big white house at 8th & Copper)

Tuesday April 10th, 6 pm – 8 pm at the Sandoval County Judicial Complex Sheriff's Office Training Room
1500 Idalia Road, Rio Rancho
(Corner of Hwy 528 and Idalia Road)

Wednesday April 18th, 6 pm – 8 pm at Los Lunas School Board Chambers at 119 Luna Ave., Los Lunas
(Corner of Luna Ave. and Main Street)

People can also obtain copies for the Draft Plan by visiting <http://www.mrcog-nm.gov/>. Printed copies of the 2030 MTP are now available at local Libraries, or City/Town/Village Halls, or simply upon request directly from the Mid-Region Council of Governments at (505) 247-1750. People can also drop by the MRCOG offices for a copy: at 809 Copper Ave. NW.

Contacts: Augusta Meyers, Communications Manager, 505-724-3626 ameyers@mrcog-nm.gov
Mark Sprick, Transportation Planning Services Manager, 505-724-3633 msprick@mrcog-nm.gov

